

## CLAIMS

[1] An image processing device having image reproduction means for reproducing image data and outputting reproduction data, the image processing device comprising:

position information extraction means for extracting, from image data having position information, the position information;

position information storage means for storing the position information extracted by the position information extraction means;

position information comparison means for comparing the position information stored in the position information storage means with comparison reference;

comparison reference setting means for setting the comparison reference in the position information comparison means; and

reproduction control means for controlling the image reproduction means so as to reproduce image data corresponding to the position information in accordance with a result of the comparison by the position information comparison means.

[2] An image processing device according to claim 1, wherein the comparison reference is a distance from a location represented by a latitude and longitude of the position information.

[3] An image processing device according to claim 1, wherein the comparison reference is a distance from a location

represented by a latitude, longitude and altitude of the position information.

[4] An image processing device according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the comparison reference includes information on a direction in which the image data is taken.

[5] An image processing device according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the comparison reference includes information having a predetermined angle with respect to a direction in which the image data is taken.

[6] An image processing device according to claim 1, further comprising display means, including a liquid crystal monitor, a CRT or a PDP, for displaying the reproduction data outputted from the image reproduction means.

[7] An image processing device according to claim 6, further comprising superimposition means for superimposing a result of the comparison outputted from the position information comparison means on the reproduction data as at least one of a numeral, a character, an icon and a symbol and outputting it to the display means.

[8] An image processing device according to claim 7, further comprising:

search frame generation means for generating a search frame constituted by at least one of a frame and an icon for specifying an area where the position information is compared within a display area of the reproduction data; and

search frame specification means for specifying at least one of a size, color, shape and display position with respect to the reproduction data of the search frame,

wherein the superimposition means superimposes the search frame on the reproduction data, and outputs it to the display means, and

wherein the comparison reference setting means changes the comparison reference set in the position information comparison means in accordance with the size, position and shape of the search frame specified by the search frame specification means.

[9] An image processing device according to claim 7, further comprising switching means for instructing the reproduction control means to reproduce selected image data in order to switch the reproduction data,

wherein when the image data corresponding to the result of the comparison is within a display area of the reproduction data, the superimposition means superimposes at least one of a numeral, a character, an icon and a symbol in a corresponding position within the display area, and causes the display means to display it.

[10] An image processing device according to claim 6, wherein when the reproduction data is switched by the switching means, the image reproduction means simultaneously reproduces at least two pieces of reproduction data corresponding to the result of the comparison, and causes the display means to simultaneously

display the at least two pieces of reproduction data.

[11] An image processing device according to claim 6, further comprising zoom setting means for specifying at least one of a zoom magnification and zoom position of the reproduction data, wherein the image reproduction means zooms in or out the reproduction data in accordance with the zoom magnification or zoom position set in the zoom setting means, and wherein the comparison reference setting means changes the comparison reference in accordance with the zoom magnification or the zoom position.

[12] An image processing unit according to claim 11, wherein the switching means instructs the reproduction control means to reproduce the image data corresponding to the result of the comparison in accordance with the zoom magnification or a zoom step representative of a degree of zooming.

[13] An image processing method for reproducing image data and outputting reproduction data, the image processing method comprising:

a position information extraction step of extracting, from image data having position information, the position information;

a position information storage step of storing the position information extracted at the position information extraction step;

a position information comparison step of comparing the

position information stored at the position information storage step with comparison reference;

a comparison reference setting step of setting the comparison reference so as to be used in the position information comparison step; and

a reproduction control step of controlling image reproduction means for outputting the reproduction data, so as to reproduce image data corresponding to the position information in accordance with a result of the comparison at the position information comparison step.

[14] An image processing method according to claim 13, wherein the comparison reference is a distance from a location represented by a latitude and longitude of the position information.

[15] An image processing method according to claim 13, wherein the comparison reference is a distance from a location represented by a latitude, longitude and altitude of the position information.

[16] An image processing method according to any one of claims 13 to 15, wherein the comparison reference includes information on a direction in which the image data is taken.

[17] An image processing method according to any one of claims 13 to 15, wherein the comparison reference includes information having a predetermined angle with respect to a direction in which the image data is taken.

[18] An image processing method according to claim 13, further comprising a display step of causing display means including a liquid crystal monitor, a CRT or a PDP to display the reproduction data outputted from the image reproduction means.

[19] An image processing method according to claim 18, further comprising superimposition step of performing control so that a result of the comparison outputted at the position information comparison step is superimposed on the reproduction data as at least one of a numeral, a character, an icon and a symbol and displayed at the display step.

[20] An image processing method according to claim 19, further comprising:

a search frame generation step of generating a search frame constituted by at least one of a frame and an icon for specifying an area where the position information is compared within a display area of the reproduction data; and

a search frame specification step of specifying at least one of a size, color, shape and display position with respect to the reproduction data of the search frame,

wherein control is performed so that the search frame is superimposed on the reproduction data at the superimposition step and displayed at the display step, and

wherein at the comparison reference setting step, the comparison reference set at the position information comparison step is changed in accordance with the size, position and shape

of the search frame specified at the search frame specification step.

[21] An image processing method according to claim 19, further comprising a switching step of providing an instruction to reproduce image data selected at the reproduction control step in order to switch the reproduction data, wherein when the image data corresponding to the result of the comparison is within a display area of the reproduction data, at the superimposition step, at least one of a numeral, a character, an icon and a symbol is superimposed in a corresponding position within the display area and displayed by the display means.

[22] An image processing method according to claim 18, wherein when the reproduction data is switched at the switching step, the image reproduction means simultaneously reproduces at least two pieces of reproduction data corresponding to the result of the comparison, and the at least two pieces of reproduction data are simultaneously displayed at the display step.

[23] An image processing method according to claim 18, further comprising a zoom setting step of specifying at least one of a zoom magnification and zoom position of the reproduction data, wherein the image reproduction means zooms in or out the reproduction data in accordance with the zoom magnification or zoom position set at the zoom setting step, and wherein at the comparison reference setting step, the

comparison reference is changed in accordance with the zoom magnification or the zoom position.

[24] An image processing method according to claim 23, wherein at the switching step, an instruction to reproduce the image data corresponding to the result of the comparison is provided for the reproduction control step in accordance with the zoom magnification or a zoom step representative of a degree of zooming.